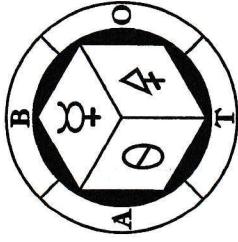


INTRODUCTION TO TAROT

LESSON 11



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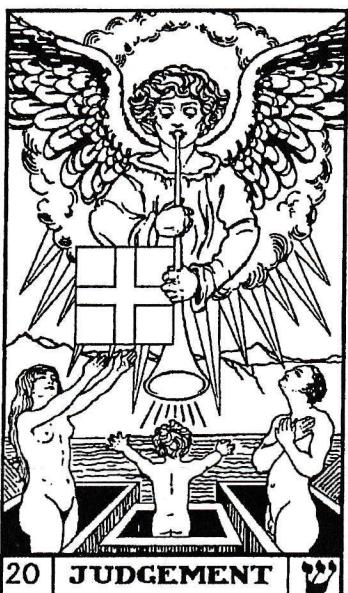
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INTRODUCTION TO TAROT

Lesson Eleven

KEY 20. JUDGEMENT



Shin (ש, pronounced sheen) is the third of the three “Mother” letters of the Hebrew alphabet. The first Mother is Aleph corresponding to the Fool. The second is Mem, the letter of Key 12, the Hanged Man. Aleph and the Fool are related to the element of air. Mem and the Hanged Man are connected with the element of water. Shin and Judgement correspond to the element of fire.

This is the fire of Spirit. Knowing this, Hebrew wise men called Shin the Holy Letter. For the numeral value of Shin is 300, and 300 is the total of the values of the letters in Ruach Elohim, “the Life-Breath of the Gods”.

Fire and Spirit are also associated in the occult meanings of the letter Aleph. For Aleph is a symbol for Ruach, the Life-Breath, and to it, as the table in HIGHLIGHTS says, the Fiery Intelligence is attributed. Thus there is to be expected an underlying correspondence between Key 0 and Key 20.

This is shown in many ways, among them being the fact that the number 20 represents the operation of the power of 0 through the agency of 2. Only one other Tarot Key shows 0 as the immediate cause of what is pictured by the Key. This is, of course, Key 10, where the working of 0 through 1 is indicated.

In Key 10, self-consciousness grasps the import of the basic wheel-pattern of cosmic manifestation. In Key 20, what is diagrammed as a wheel in Key 10 becomes part of human experience. The active power at work is the fire of Spirit. The agency is subconsciousness which takes the idea represented by Key 10 and works out transformations of personality resulting in the realization symbolized by Key 20.

The table in HIGHLIGHTS gives Perpetual Intelligence as the designation for this type of realization. It is conscious awareness that human life is not temporal, but eternal.

Participation in this consciousness was the object of the ancient Mysteries. The founders of those Mysteries understood that this type of knowing is the result of specific training whereby the natural man is transformed into a higher species of being.

In all accounts of the Mysteries there is always reference to fire in connection with the experience of the Eternal Consciousness. Nor is this merely symbolical. An imperfect experience of this kind led Dr. Bucke to write his book, COSMIC CONSCIOUSNESS. Describing his own brief glimpse of this higher knowing, he speaks of a rosy light so definitely perceived that he thought there must be a fire in the vicinity.

The visions of Ezekiel and of St. John identify the Divine Presence with fire. The Chaldean Oracles describe various stages of the Great Work completed by a vision of a cloud of fire, whirling, and folding itself upon itself. When this is perceived, say the Oracles, "Hear thou the Voice of the fire."

Shin means "tooth" or "fang". The immediate suggestion of the noun "fang" is that it is the tooth of a serpent whereby deadly poison is injected into the veins of the snake's victim. Again and again in occultism, the power by means of which liberation is attained, and the supernal consciousness realized, is compared to a venomous serpent.

Why is this? **Simply because the old man must "die" before the new man may be "born".** Nobody can exercise the higher occult powers and remain an ordinary human being.

The First Matter on which we perform the alchemical operation of sublimation is our own consciousness. We must lose our lives in order to find them.

The other, more general meaning of Shin refers to the tooth of any animal. Thus it is a sign of that which breaks down forms and begins the process of assimilation.

Here, too, is a hint of something deeper. He who enters into the Perpetual Intelligence, Eternal Consciousness, or Conscious Immortality, finds that he has not so much **attained** that consciousness as that his lesser consciousness has been **assimilated** by the higher order of knowing.

The real Actor in this divine event is not the man. It is the **One Spirit** which is like a devouring fire consuming the sense of separate identity, and releasing us from the bonds of time and space.

The title, Judgement, implies completion, decision, termination. In none of the older Tarot Keys is this symbol named "The Last Judgement". We have here no narrow reference to exoteric Christian doctrines.

The inventors of Tarot understood what is veiled by these doctrines. They knew that this picture, like that of the Hierophant (called the Pope in older Tarot designs), would divert the attention of ecclesiastical orthodoxy from the true purport of the Keys. The title of Key 20 really refers to the completion of the Great Work.

This is the final state of **personal** consciousness. What is represented by the last Key of Tarot, the World, is beyond any personal condition; but in the situation pictured by Key 20, there is still to be seen the consciousness of "I and others", which disappears in the perfect unity symbolized by Key 21.

In the composition of the figure of the angel is concealed a geometrical statement of the Fourth Dimension. The whole figure is so drawn that the surrounding cloud defines a circle, containing two smaller circles, one over the other, to make a figure 8. Hence this geometrical basis of the design represents Eternity (the circle) and dominion (the figure 8). In Ouspensky's *TERTIUM ORGANUM*, this same geometrical design is employed to represent the Fourth Dimension.

Obviously, the angel is Gabriel. He is the angel of the element of water. The angel is the presiding genius of that meta-physical substance which, throughout Tarot, is symbolized by water, and he is also the active principle behind the apparently passive figure of the High Priestess.

His trumpet represents the specialization of the Life-Breath in sound. Seven great sounds, each one corresponding to one of the interior stars, or alchemical metals, are represented by seven rays descending from the trumpet. Readers familiar with Theosophical terminology will recognize here a reference to the seven great rays which are active in the evolutionary process we have called the Great Work.

The mountains in the background are snow-covered like the height toward which the Fool gazes and the peak whereon the Hermit stands. They represent abstract thought which finds its purest expression in the science of mathematics.

The sea is the final reservoir of those many waters which begin, in Tarot, with the robe of the High Priestess. This is also the Great Sea of the Qabalists, which they call "Mother", and which is connected with Understanding. It is when the Life-power's own perfect understanding of itself finds expression in and through a human personality that what is pictured by Key 20 comes to pass.

Three coffins float on the sea. They are of stone to represent the physical plane. They are rectangular to show three dimensions.

The three human figures stand up-right in the coffins. The line of their bodies is thus at right angles to the bottom of the coffins. The purpose of this detail is to indicate the mathematical definition of the Fourth Dimension—the dimension which is at right angles to the other three.

The woman is the active figure of the three. She it is who receives the influence of the magical vibrations coming from the trumpet. Her uplifted hands represent the sublimation of subconscious activities.

The man stands with hands folded on his breast. He looks up in silent adoration but does nothing because activity has been transferred from self-consciousness to subconsciousness.

The child's uplifted arms give the traditional sign of Typhon, or Apophis, the Destroyer. This is because he represents the rebirth which comes as a result of mastering the destructive principle, personified in Egyptian mythology as Typhon. His mother is Isis, and his father is Osiris, in that same Egyptian myth.

Thus the three figures represent an ancient mystery formula which ends with the names of Isis, Apophis and Osiris. The initials of the three names are I A O, or Yaho, one of the most potent "words of power". It is still in use and has direct connection with controlled employment of sound vibration in ways which make immediate use of the fact of the Fourth dimension; even though many initiates who are trained in the use of this mystical word are not themselves directly aware of the Fourth Dimension.

Key 20, then, sets the pattern for your own personal realization of immortality. It calls forth subconscious activities which result, at last, in this final liberation. It will help you realize that even now you are **living** in the Fourth Dimension, in that Eternity of which time, as measured by man, is only a partial expression. It will aid you to understand also that just as you live in Eternity, so do you share the quality of omnipresence which is part of your true make-up because the foundation of your personal life is the free Spirit bound by neither time nor place.

KEY 21. THE WORLD



The name of the letter Tav ☰ means "signature" or "mark". In ancient Hebrew, it was often written as we write the **plus** sign in arithmetic.

As representing a signature, Tav implies security, pledge, guarantee, and the like. The signature makes a contract valid. The "Sign of Tav" is the final seal and witness of the Great Work.

The direction attributed by Qabalists to Tav is Center, sometimes called "the palace of holiness in the midst". The idea is that the ruling principle dwells at the center.

Administrative Intelligence is therefore attributed to Tav because the Lord's consciousness—the mental state of the originating and directive principle of the universe—is what administers every detail of cosmic activity. When a human

being completes the Great Work, his contemporaries suppose he has **acquired** unusual control over his environment. He himself knows better.

He has identified himself with the central, directive **Principle** of the universe. Because this has occurred, his every thought, his every word, his every act is an immediate, undistorted expression of the Conscious Energy which administers the laws of nature. He has not **gained** power. He simply gives free expression to the One Power which is actually the central reality in every human life.

He participates in the cosmic government. He enters the kingdom of heaven as a fully enfranchised citizen who takes active part in the execution of the laws. Nature obeys him because he expresses **That** which is both Author and Lord of nature.

HIGHLIGHTS attributes the planet Saturn to Tav. Your personal "Saturn" is the interior star corresponding to a center at the base of the spine where the serpent-power is coiled.

In mythology, Saturn is father of the gods and eats his children. The meaning is that the mode of consciousness typified by Saturn and by the letter Tav is one which swallows up all other modes of consciousness.

To give any adequate verbal expression to this is impossible. We do what we can when we say that in the all-embracing Divine Consciousness there can be no trace of the feeling of "otherness".

Every human being who has tried to express his own experience of this consciousness has told us that in it everything disappears but the sense of identity or oneness. Such statements are unintelligible to ordinary men and women, yet the fact that all seers agree in using this kind of language indicates clearly that they have had a common experience. Little as we may be able to imagine such an experience, reason tells us that an order of knowing which is all-inclusive must necessarily be free from the qualification, "I am I, and the universe is another."

Key 21 is the expression of the power of 1 through the agency of 2. 21 expresses the manifestation of self-consciousness through the activity of subconsciousness.

Yet, in this instance, the self-consciousness is not personal. It is the self-awareness of the **One Identity**, and the subconsciousness through which it works is the all-inclusive subconscious level of the Life-power's being.

This is not easy to explain. Perhaps you may grasp the idea if we say the final outcome of the Great Work is really a recollection of powers most persons have forgotten they possess.

Among these powers is an extension of consciousness beyond the limits of the body into the forms which constitute one's environment. In this consciousness, the whole universe is

perceived as being the **One Body** of the **One Self**. To realize this is to be aware that the directive **Center** of the whole field of cosmic activity dwells in the heart of man.

The title, "The World," is a translation from the Hebrew olahm, meaning "eternity, universe, world". The oldest significance of this word is, "that which is hidden or veiled".

The title of Key 21 indicates also what may be termed "world-consciousness". He who learns to express the Administrative Intelligence is in tune with the whole universe.

The four animals are the same as those of Key 10. Associated with the fixed signs of the zodiac, they represent the fixed conditions in which all manifestation takes place. They are also symbols for the four elements and for four great planes of manifestation. The idea suggested by their positions in the corners of the Key is that every event is included within the **All**.

The wreath is an ellipse eight units high and five units wide. This presents a formula for the approximate squaring of the circle, and the sum of the numbers 5 and 8 gives the 13 which denotes Unity and Love.

The wreath is really a zero-sign. It indicates that the World and the No-Thing are not two things, but **One**. The World is the way the No-Thing presents itself to our minds.

The dancing figure is the Woman who has appeared throughout the Tarot series. She is so drawn that her head and hands are at the angles of a triangle, apex upward, while her legs form a cross. Thus the figure suggests the alchemical symbol for Sulphur, a triangle over a cross.

The Woman is the embodiment of the fiery Life-power. Her dance suggests the Law of Rhythm which is everywhere at work. She dances on air, just as the Yods hang in air in Keys 16, 18 and 19. This is a reference to the occult doctrine that the real basis and support of all manifestation is Spirit.

The spirals in her hands turn in opposite directions. They symbolize the dual operation of the One Force. They emit flashes of light. They are symbols of the universal spiral force which enters into all forms of cosmic activity.

The Woman is more than she seems. The traditional interpretation of Tarot says the veil hides the fact that this dancer is male as well as female. THAT WHICH IS, according to the way we think about it, appears now as Father and again as Mother. Yet THAT is limited by neither gender. It includes, and transcends, both male and female.

The veil or scarf is shaped like the Hebrew letter Kaph. This is the letter to which Key 10 is assigned. The meaning here is that the mechanism of the universe, which seems like a system of wheels within wheels, hides the truth that whatever exists is an expression of Love and

Life. We are not merely witnesses, observing the operations of a machine. We are living centers through which the ruling and administrative consciousness of an **organism** makes itself known.

He who finds the **Center** finds also the **Temple** or **Palace** of the King. He who finds the **Self** finds the **World-Ruler**. He who knows what is behind the veil of mechanism knows that the **One Power** is not only the **Life-power**, as we have called it so many times. He learns that the **Life-power** is also the **Love-power**.

This is the final revelation, the consciousness reached at the end of the seven stages of unfoldment. This end, moreover, is also the beginning of a new cycle.

Once the **Center** is found, once the personal consciousness is swallowed up in the realization of **Identity** or **Union**, the end, or true purpose, of existence is perceived. He who enters into the perfect bliss and the perfect wisdom of this happy state becomes one of those who know, but cannot tell.

For most persons, this is a brief ecstasy. Yet one never forgets it. By it one's entire outlook is transformed. More than this the experience never comes until one has undergone, through the agency of subconsciousness, many alterations in the personal vehicle.

He is a new creature, a member of a different species. He is unable to transmit his acquired characteristics to posterity by means of the ordinary reproductive process. Yet, by a subtle redirection of the force used in that process, he begets spiritual children.

This is the secret of the leaders who have brought enlightenment to humanity. They waken us from our dream of sense. They stir us deeply. They cannot tell us what they know, but they can give us eyes wherewith to see.

To this end some of their number invented Tarot. As yet, you have only a slight acquaintance with this wonderful device. As you go on with your studies, Tarot will enable you to establish a deep, inner communion with THOSE WHO KNOW.

Please answer the following questions as briefly as is consistent with clear expression. Use paper of standard letter size. Put your name and address, at the upper right hand corner of the first page. Use typewriter or pen and ink and write on one side of the paper only. A certificate will be issued to you upon your passing the following examination.

INTRODUCTION TO TAROT EXAMINATION

1. Have you looked at your Tarot Keys daily as instructed?
2. Are you keeping an Occult Notebook?
3. Has your power of visualization improved?
4. Which Tarot Key appeals the most to you?
5. Why?
6. Which Tarot Key, if any, do you like the least?
7. Why?
8. In what way has Tarot affected your personal life?
9. What did you find of most importance to you in the Course, Introduction to Tarot?

Note: This questionnaire will serve for later comparison in your response to Tarot when, beginning with the next Course, you color your Keys and start the truly intensive transmutational aspects of the ancient Wisdom techniques.

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You may wish to use this opportunity to review and practically apply the principles you have learned. Remember we are striving to be practical occultists, which means we need to practice.

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